DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, V CORPS
UNIT 29355
APO AE 09014

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

AETV-CG   JAN 2 3 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Observance of the African American/Black History Month – 1-28 February 2006

1. In 1926, Dr. Carter G. Woodson established "Negro History Week" to promote racial understanding and to coordinate the study of African American experiences. Fifty years later, President Gerald Ford expanded and gave federal recognition to Dr. Woodson's vision by proclaiming February African American/Black History Month.

2. This year's national theme is *"Celebrating Community: A Tribute to Black Fraternal, Social, and Civic Institutions."* It highlights the impact of these groups on the lives and history of African-Americans. The observance coincides with the 100th anniversary of the first continuous collegiate black Greek-letter fraternity, *Alpha Phi Alpha*.

3. Established in an age of racial segregation and disenfranchisement, black Pan-Hellenic fraternities and sororities sought to uplift, inspire and educate members, while refuting the status of racial inferiority. Their mission expanded with the partnership of the National Association of Colored Women's Club, the Prince Hall Masons, Eastern Stars, Urban League, and other civic groups. Later in the 20th century, the African-American middle class found a voice in social organizations such as the Links and Jack and Jill. Today, African-American socio-economic and political challenges are still met by these and other civic groups, such as the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition and 100 Black Men.

4. I encourage all members of V Corps and their families to participate in African American/Black History Month events. This year's theme demonstrates what can be achieved with a noble cause and unified and steadfast commitment. To learn more about this observance visit the V Corps Human Relations/Equal Opportunity web page at www.vcorps.army.mil/g1/eo.

5. Victory!

RICARDO S. SANCHEZ
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding

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